



INFORMAL MINUTES

A meeting of the board's Policy Committee meeting came to order at 4:34 pm at the call of Committee Chair Rita Moore in the Willamette Conference Room at the Blanchard Education Service Center, 501 N Dixon Street, Portland, Oregon, 97227.

There were present:

Committee Members

Rita Moore - Chair
Julia Brim-Edwards
Eilidh Lowery
Maxine Latterell – Board Student Representative

Staff and Other Attendees

Kara Bradshaw - Executive Assistant, Board of Education
Judy Brennan – Director of Enrollment and Transfer
Shanice Clarke – Director of Community Engagement, Strategic Partnerships
Jonathan Garcia – Chief Engagement Officer
Janise Hansen - Internal Auditor
Claire Hertz - Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations
Mary Kane - Legal Council
Amy Kohnstamm - Board Director
Joe LaFontaine – Regional Superintendent
Liz Large - Interim General Council
Cynthia Le - Chief Financial Officer
Dani Ledezma – Senior Advisor, Racial Equity and Social Justice
Parker Myrus – Student DSC Representative
Rosanne Powell - Senior Board Manager
Stephanie Soden-Back - Chief of Staff
Jackson Weinberg – District Student Council Representative

Diploma Requirements Policy

Mary Kane provided an overview of the edits that were made to the draft Diploma Requirements Policy since the last meeting. There was discussion regarding Career and Technical Education programing and language requirements. The committee referred the policy to the full board.

District Funds for Gifts, Meals and Refreshments Policy 8.30.010-P

Director Brim-Edwards requested a sentence be added that states that the expenditure is expected to be reasonable and tie it to the federal per diem standards. There was discussion regarding how to state the standards, whether it should be linked to the per diem or another standard. There was discussion regarding how to set a per person dollar limit for meetings the organizer has to plan for maximum attendees, regardless of how many people actually attend. There was discussion regarding unintended consequences of tying the policy to per diem, and whether there need to be an exception clause that allows for supervisor to approve exceptions. Staff commented that there would be a large increase in workload if the policy requires tracking the dollar amount of each transaction in the district. It was decided that the staff should look at the policy and think about how to phrase the language that would create a reasonable limit and that would have reasonable staff controls.

Search and Seizure Policy 4.30.040-P

Shanice Clarke shared next steps for engagement by staff and the Student Representative, which included a timeline of final engagement and recommendations. The committee requested a compilation

of what staff heard from the community and stakeholder feedback, as well as any recommendations that are being made, noting that any recommendations need to be run by Mary Kane. It was requested that it be to board members by March 20, 2020 so that it's ready for the March 30, 2020 meeting.

Enrollment Related Policies

Shanice Clarke provided an overview of the community feedback that was collected, noting that there were 12 themes that arose, with the most prominent theme being to keep cohorts of students together. There was discussion regarding top themes by race or ethnicity, and the types of questions that were asked. Ms. Clarke noted that there was not perfect data because the percentage of people of color who responded was small and therefore is not reflective of the voices of the full district. She added that the respondents are those who tend to already be involved.

There was discussion regarding program disruption (such as a student who was in a certain program in middle school transferring to a high school because their neighborhood school does not provide the program). It was suggested that legacy changes exclude high school students. Judy Brennan suggested that if there is a legacy restriction in the revised policy, then the enrollment and transfer department can process the petitions and report to the board about trends that arise to see if something needs to be relooked at in a year. There was discussion regarding clarity of the petition process. There was discussion around how changing the legacy policy could affect students who have already been impacted multiple times, such as during the K-8 to K-5 and Middle School transition. It was requested that the statement that enrollment balancing "should impact the fewest number of people" be removed and replaced with a statement that directs for consideration in regards to students that will be left isolated or who have been impacted by changes multiple times. There was discussion regarding lottery weighting and preference in the student enrollment and transfer process, and how to include students who have been historically underserved. It was noted that there are edits on the table that include underserved students.

Public Comment


Paul Rosen: Climate Justice Committee. Wanted to update on the policy for climate crisis response.

There is a goal to have a draft by earth day. Get net carbon outputs to zero by 2050. Working with sustainability, transportation and nutrition services. Green schools conference is coming up. Scheduling meetings with students and unions and will come back with progress.

Matt Marjonovic: You keep talking about policy changes being driven by data and history. The data is that five years ago the board decided to place the free and reduced lunch preference over sibling preference. Sibling preference is about keeping kids together at neighborhood schools, and should be made explicit for lottery schools. K-8 grades students are dependent on parents and schools need parent volunteers. The idea was to improve educational equity and to boost the scales and improve the lottery to get more diverse enrollment. Free and reduced lunch preference over sibling preference effects certain communities such as dual language communities. Putting sibling preference first would not cause a large effect on free and reduced lunch preference. Current language could overshoot the district goal. Free and reduced lunch is approxi-metric and poor metric to use, and what is missing in the policy is what the desired outcome is.

Committee Chair Rita Moore Adjourned the meeting at 5:46 pm.

Submitted by:


Kara Bradshaw, Executive Assistant
PPS Board of Education